

# **A & K Hill Green Agriculture Innovation Awards (GAIA)**

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## **Background**

Diminished food security, declining productivity, desertification, biodiversity loss and rapidly rising levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> are key global issues.

Fundamental redesign of farming practice to promote soil carbon sequestration offers a practical and almost immediately available solution to many of these challenges.

## **A & K Hill Green Agriculture Innovation Awards**

The prestigious A & K Hill Green Agriculture Innovation Awards (GAIA) were established by Christine Jones with generous support from Allan and Kay Hill, who viewed an ABC Landline story about Christine's vision to improve landscape health and farm productivity through rebuilding soil ('Ground Control' 15 February 2009).

The GAIA awards provide recognition for individuals with a passion for promoting the adoption of regenerative land management practices that simultaneously improve soil function, agricultural production, biodiversity, food quality and carbon sequestration outcomes.

The inaugural GAIA award recipient was Bob Wilson, President, Evergreen Farming Inc. Bob has worked tirelessly to increase the level of perennality, providing 'yearlong green' in Western Australian farming systems. Former Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Tony Burke, assisted with the presentation of the inaugural award at the 10<sup>th</sup> National Business Leaders Forum on Sustainable Development, Parliament House, Canberra.

Former Governor General Major General Michael Jeffery presented the 2010 GAIA awards to co-recipients Cam and Roxane McKellar (NSW), Dave and Marg Daniels (Qld) and Ian and Dianne Haggerty (WA), in recognition for outstanding leadership and innovation with respect to the adoption of biology friendly farming practices, fostering secure, resilient production in broadacre cropping systems.

The 2011 recipients, Darryl Cluff, Colin Seis, Barry Hardwick, Charlie Sexton and Tom Nicholas, all champions for the cause of regenerative agriculture, will receive GAIA awards in conjunction with the Second National 'Managing the Carbon Cycle' Forum, Queanbeyan Conference Centre, 21-22 September 2011.

The A & K Hill Green Agriculture Innovation Awards will run until 2013. Award funds are administered by Landcare NSW Inc. Judging for the award is undertaken by Christine Jones in conjunction with Allan and Kay Hill and media sponsor The Australian Farm Journal.